

TRIBUTE TO ROYCE WISENBAKER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in memory of a cherished East Texan, Royce E. Wisenbaker of Tyler, Texas, who passed away recently at the age of 84. Royce was one of the region's most gracious patrons. He devoted a lifetime to helping others in countless ways and through numerous organizations, and he is truly missed by all those who knew him.

Born on July 23, 1917, Royce grew up in Mineola, where he graduated from high school. From there he attended Texas A&M University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering and a Master of Science in Sanitary Engineering. This was the beginning of a long and active relationship with the University that continued until his death.

After graduation from college, he began work for the State, serving as District Engineer of the Northwest Texas Area. In 1942 he answered the call to duty and entered the U.S. Army, where he advanced to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Royce served a total of five years and fought in three theaters. He maintained his Army Reserve status and retired as a full Colonel.

Upon completion of military service, Royce formed an engineering partnership with Robert Fix. Their company designed and supervised construction of waterworks and sewerage projects, streets, airports, industrial waste facilities, water reservoirs and other municipal projects. The partnership lasted 38 years, until Mr. Fix retired and the company was sold. Throughout this time Royce also delved into land development, waterworks, farming, and oil and gas production. After the end of his engineering partnership, he focused full-time on these ventures.

During his long life, Royce consistently worked to support his alma mater and had the honor of serving on the Board of Regents of Texas A&M for eighteen years. His building downtown was always recognizable by the large maroon and white Texas A&M flag flying over it. Royce also served as president of the University's 12th Man Foundation and president of the Association of Former Students—the only person ever to have served as president of both. He was the originator of the President's Endowed Scholarship Program and personally endowed six scholarships. This program now offers more than six-hundred fully endowed scholarships and has been copied by other universities across the nation. He also endowed similar scholarships at Austin College in Sherman, Texas and at Tyler Junior College. Royce supported Texas A&M's faculty and research efforts as well. He endowed a chair in the School of Engineering and two Graduate Fellowships for the School of Engineering, one of which was named in honor of Fred Benson, his former professor and long-time friend and associate. He was a very loyal and supportive person—often referred to as Texas' largest contributor in the political arena for local, state and national offices.

In addition to his professional responsibilities and his service to Texas A&M, Royce managed to contribute considerable time and

energy to numerous organizations in the Tyler community. He served as governing board member of Mother Frances Hospital, president of the YMCA, member of the Shriners, director of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, a member of the American Legion and Elks Lodge, board member and president for seven years of the East Texas Goodwill Industries, and president of Smith County Youth Foundation. He also was a director of the East Texas Symphony, board member of the Texas Chest Foundation, vice president of the East Texas Area Council Boy Scouts, Elder and Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church; board member of Texas Presbyterian Foundation, president of Tyler Catholic School Board, member and secretary of Texas State Board of Health Resources for twelve years and member of the volunteer council at Rusk State Hospital. He served on various boards of the University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler Junior College and Austin College. And the list goes on—for Royce's presence and contributions were evident in almost every worthy cause in his community.

Among his many recognitions include the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas A&M in 1973, the Commissioners Award from Texas Health & Mental Retardation Commission in 1972, Silver Beaver award from Boy Scouts in 1977, Rotary Club Award of Appreciation in 1970, Outstanding Service Award from National Association of Mental Health in 1974, Outstanding Humanitarian Award from Citizens of Rusk in 1975 and Engineer of the Year Award in 1981. In 1987 the Board of Regents at Texas A&M designated the "Royce E. Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center" building.

Royce is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Clorinda "Petey" Wisenbaker; daughters Susan Spies, Paula Wisenbaker and Libby Wallace; son Royce, three sisters, a sister-in-law and eleven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Royce Wisenbaker made such a difference in the lives of those who knew him. He was truly an outstanding American who leaves a remarkable legacy of accomplishments—and memories of a man devoted to his family, friends and community. It is an honor today to pay my last respects to this exemplary community leader, beloved husband and father, and friend—Royce E. Wisenbaker.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN E.
KAVANAGH CHIEF OF AETNA
HOSE, HOOK AND LADDER FIRE
COMPANY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a leader in the Delaware firefighting community—the Chief of Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company in Newark, Delaware, Stephen E. Kavanagh. Chief Kavanagh is a courageous and dedicated leader whose personal mission is to protect and save the lives of Delawareans. On behalf of myself and the citizens of the First State, I would like to honor Chief Kavanagh and congratulate him for being selected by the Congressional Fire Service Institute to appear in their annual "Protecting America" painting.

Stephen Kavanagh joined the Wilmington Manor Fire Company in 1970, establishing for himself a fine track record in advancing the quality of fire and emergency services throughout Delaware. In 1979, Steve moved to the Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company of Newark, Delaware and it is here that he really made his name. Having held a number of officer positions in the Company, Steve Kavanagh was elected Chief in 1999. Aetna Hose, Hook and Fire Company is one of the busiest fire companies in the State and leading this company is both a challenging and rewarding task for Chief Kavanagh.

Chief Kavanagh has protected the residents of Newark, Delaware through good times and bad times. Throughout the tragic events of September 11th, he was a pillar of strength and a protector of safety in the community. He calmed the fears of Delawareans and stood resolute to help his state and his country in any way he could.

In addition to the time he spends as Chief of the Company, Steve is also a skilled craftsman who works on custom aircrafts for Dassault Falcon Jet at the New Castle County Airport. His family is of the utmost priority to him and he and his wife Theresa have two children and three grandchildren.

Chief Kavanagh makes daily sacrifices to serve others in our community and his selflessness and commitment to service will have a permanent place in Delaware's fire service history. The example Chief Kavanagh has set for firefighters throughout Delaware is one we hope all future firefighters will strive to emulate. His dedication to the protection of life is truly commendable. It is for all these reasons that he is being honored in the painting "Protecting America." As Delaware's Congressman, I would like to personally thank him for a difficult job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF
GARY CURE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated the past 24 years of his life to serving and protecting the citizens of Colorado. Sheriff Gary Cure of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office has, in his many years of service, courageously and dutifully served his community, his state and his country, and I am honored to pay tribute to him today in front of this body of Congress. After a long and successful career as one of Colorado's finest, Gary will be moving on to take a position with the County Sheriffs of Colorado in Denver. Though I look forward to his tenure in Denver, I, along with the many citizens of Jackson County, will sorely miss his hard work and dedication to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

Gary has been with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office since 1979, where he began his tenure as undersheriff before being elected sheriff in 1982—a post to which he has been reelected ever since. As sheriff, Gary has dedicated himself to the betterment of the community and the department, not only through his extraordinary law enforcement